

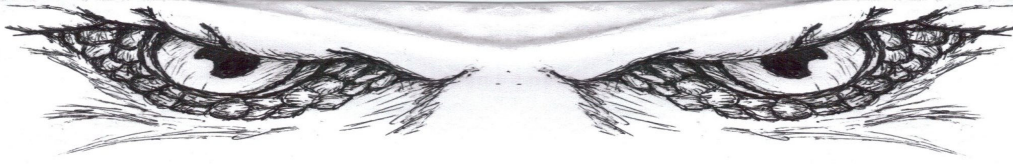
Bird's Eye View

Volume 13, Issue 3

November 2013

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Student Gov't Plans Events to Celebrate the Holidays

By: Juliet Wooldridge

Southwestern Student Government has been busy trying to make the holidays merry and bright.

Student Government is helping with the hat and mitten tree, adopt-a-family program, canned food drive, and door decorating contest.

The canned food drive is being held from Dec. 1st through Dec. 20. All cans should be brought to Mrs. Borkowski's room or the office. They will be donated to the local food pantry.

Student government members met at Target on Sun., Dec. 8, to shop for the family they adopted.



(l to r) Megan Pence, Hanna Moore, Lenzi Rodney, Lauren Jenkins, and Morgan Crane enjoy the Student Government party.

Samantha French said that they bought a lot of toys and clothes and wrapped the gifts after school on Wed., December 11.

SAS classes will be participating in the holiday door decorating con-



(l to r) Student Government members Keri Watts, Hannah Greeling, Katie Wooldridge, and Alysa Kaiser show off the gifts they received at their holiday party.

test sponsored by Student Government.

Student Government had a party and gift exchange on Friday, Dec. 13, before school.

Show a Little Heart: SAS Classes Donate for a Cause

By: Brittany Means

November's character education words of the month are "caring" and "kindness." During this month, Southwestern students are showing acts of kindness by putting together themed baskets in their SAS classes. These baskets will be auctioned at a benefit to raise money for Mrs. Laird, special education teacher at the high school, and her family due to her son's need for a heart transplant.

On September 23, 2013, Mr. and Mrs. Laird welcomed a baby boy, Ryan, into their family. Baby Ryan was born with a rare heart defect and is currently on the transplant list at Children's Hospital.

A benefit will be held on Sat., Dec. 14, at 7 p.m. at the Riverbend Community Center in Alton. Tickets can be purchased at the door for \$10 each. Two bands will perform and a silent auction for the baskets as well as a live auction and raffles will take place. Food and drinks may be purchased

separately. Kids are also welcome at the event.

Mrs. Kelly Goetten, who has organized the fundraiser, said, "The faculty and students want to show their support for Mrs. Laird and hopefully be able to help defray some of the medical expenses the family is enduring."

Mrs. Goetten mentioned that she is pleased to see the enthusiasm of the teachers and students.

"I'm really impressed with some of the ideas," added Mrs. Goetten.

Mr. Joe Buttitta, industrial arts teacher, is making a fire pit to donate and his SAS class is donating a HIS basket and a HER basket.

"I think it's wonderful that the students care so much and are so open to helping a faculty member," commented Mr. Buttitta. "I was happy when I brought it up to my SAS class and the students immediately took it over."



Breanna Fowler and Austin O'Heron warm up their class' "Cold Winter's Night" basket by adding hot chocolate and marshmallows.

Some basket themes include chocolates, teas/coffees, Scentsy, Pampered Chef, movies, and many more. These baskets will be turned into Mrs. Goetten by Dec. 11.



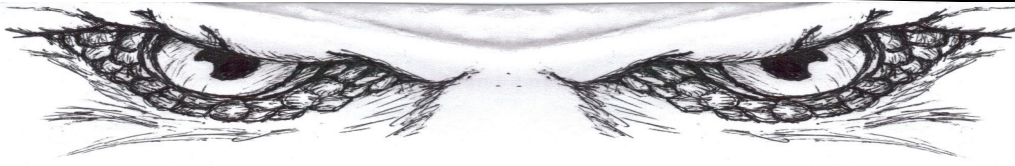
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Candy Store is Back: Re-Opening Held Nov. 18th

By: Juliet Wooldridge

Southwestern welcomes back the Candy Store; it will be located outside the cafeterias during both lunch periods. Mrs. Mathis' class ran the Candy Store last year but when she was reassigned to teach in the middle school, the Candy Store closed.

Student Government approached Mr. Mark Bearley, principal, about bringing back the candy store. Mr. Bearley felt that it would be a positive for students. This opportunity provides the funds that Student Government needs for activities.

Student Government will be the first group to run the Candy Store.

Mrs. Jennifer Borkowski, student



Freshman Grant Francis and senior Keri Watts serve freshman Bayli Ironwing as she makes her first purchase at the candy store.

government sponsor, and Hanna Moore, student government repre-

sentative have organized the opening of the Candy Store. The proceeds will be donated and a portion will be kept by the Student Government.

Co-president of Student Government, Keri Watts, said she is glad to have the candy store back. "I really hope the candy store does well!" stated Watts.

The store also has a work schedule for students who sign up and volunteer. "The store originally was opening on Nov. 4, but due to schedule changes we decided to wait until Mon., Nov. 18," commented Mrs. Borkowski.

Show a Little Heart: SAS Classes Donate for a Cause



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Environmental Biology Class Climbs Aboard Living Lands and Waters Barge in Grafton

By: Hayley Neibel

For the second year in a row, Ms. Gaffney's Environmental Biology students went to Living Lands and Water in Grafton. Living Lands and Waters is an organization that cleans up trash in the river. Twenty-six students that went on the field trip.

The class boarded johnboats that took them over to the barge. They were split up in groups and joined students from different high schools to work though solutions to environmental problems.

They also learned how to collaborate with other students as they work together to solve the problem. After they came up with a solution they had to present it to

everyone.

Marion Black, senior, said her group talked about how to save crops in the environment.

James Krankel, senior, said he really enjoyed the boat ride to the barge.

Senior Mackenzie Rose said that she liked being on the barge.

Ms. Gaffney said that she really enjoyed when the students were doing the rollercoaster down the river on the john boat.

Morgan Ozark, junior, stated, "It amazes me how much these people care about the environment and the things they would do for it."

Courtney Bangert, junior, comment-



ed, "I realized that a lot of people get together to clean the river and teach students about how to help the environment."

A photo journalist from CNN was on board the barge, interviewing students and taking pictures. The journalist's story will be aired on CNN but the air time hasn't been released yet. Ms. Gaffney will be notified when the date is determined.



Marissa Jones, Mackenzie Rose, and Jacob Rotermund prepare to cross the river to the Living Lands and Waters barge.



Chad Pregracke lectures on the objective of the Living Lands and Waters Barge.



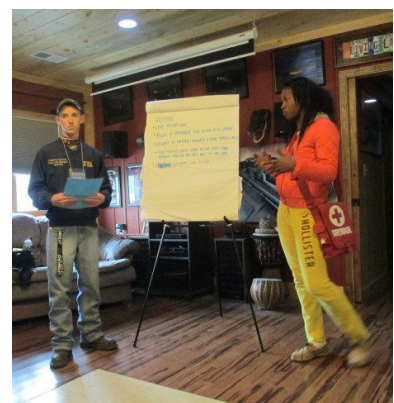
Courtney Bangert and Morgan Ozark crossing the river to the Living Lands and Waters barge.

Social Studies Students of the Month November

- ♦ **Senior:**
Bailey Allen
- ♦ **Junior:**
Emily Jones
- ♦ **Freshmen:**
Whitney Runyon and Lydia Zini



Southwestern students arriving at the barge in a johnboat.



Leighton Grothaus and an area student present their solution to an environmental problem.

Photos by Marion Black

SAS Pumpkin Decorating Contest Held in October



Photo by Mrs. Borkowski
“Jigsaw” from the movie SAW, created by Mr. Darr’s SAS class, won Best Pumpkin Overall.



Photo by Mrs. Borkowski
Mr. Knittel’s SAS class made Mr. Knittel as a pumpkin and won Funniest Pumpkin.



Photo by Mrs. Borkowski
Mrs. Hasse’s SAS class won in the Superhero division.



Photo by Mrs. Borkowski
Mike Wazowski from Monsters Inc. was created in Mrs. Borkowski’s SAS Class.



Photo by Mrs. Borkowski
Ms. Gaffney’s SAS class showed school spirit with their Piasa Bird



Photo by Mrs. Borkowski
SAS students from the library made “Pennywise” from the movie IT.

SHS Says Goodbye to Welding Teacher Mr. Knittel

By: Rebecca Vogt

Mr. Rodney Knittel has decided to leave Southwestern High School to start a new chapter of his life outside of education.

Mr. Knittel has been teaching welding at Southwestern for seven and a half years. Previously he taught agriculture and welding classes at Greenfield High School and Carlinville High School for four years.

He is going to be an Environmental Compliance Manager for Oros and Busch Application Technology Co.

He said that he and his wife discussed his decision to leave teaching and she was in full support.

He said that his children were concerned, at first, about his leaving teach-

ing.

“After explaining to my kids that I would not be on the road all the time, I had their support as well,” he stated.

“We prayed about the decision and realized this was a good opportunity for our family,” added Mr. Knittel.

Mr. Knittel said he has made some great friends here and will miss communicating with those people on a daily basis.

“I will miss working with students. I also have to mention my SAS kids as well,” Mr. Knittel stated.

“It’s a bittersweet goodbye because I’m happy for him but sad to see him go. He is such a big part of the team here,” commented Mrs. Susan Ruyle, art teacher.



Photo by Rachel Meisner
Mr. Knittel assists junior Josh Norris with his construction project .

Catching Fire Surpasses Any Other November Movie Premiere

On November 22, at midnight, Susan Collins' *The Hunger Games: Catching Fire* premiered on the big screen. The movie premiered in Edwardsville theaters, along with East Alton and Jerseyville theaters on Thursday night.

The AMC Theater in Edwardsville has tickets for \$10.25 each, \$8.25 for Eastgate in East Alton, and \$6.00 in Jerseyville.

On March 23, 2012, the first *Hunger Games* movie came out. Critics reviewed the movie as four and a half out of five stars, and users reviewed it as four stars out of five. In the first weekend, the movie brought in \$155 million for opening weekend which doubled *Twilight's* opening weekend which made \$70.6 million.

When asked why she was excited to see the movie, sophomore Leah Cohrs commented, "I'm excited to see it because I read all the books and *Catching Fire* was my favorite."

Cohrs stated that she would possibly be attending the midnight premiere of it, but if not, she would go the next day.

Cohrs commented about her favorite character, "I like Katniss because her character is strong and independent."

Many students plan to attend the midnight premiere of *Catching Fire*.

The movie surpassed any other November premiere by bringing in \$161.1 million in opening weekend, making it the fourth best opener ever.

Senior Casey Moore, read the trilogy, and saw *Catching Fire*. He exclaimed about the movie, "It was an amazing movie that followed the story line closely."



Artist of the Month: Victoria King

By: Leah Cohrs

This month's Artist of the Month is junior Victoria King. King has been enrolled in almost every class Southwestern has to offer.

She said that she has always been interested in art and loves drawing anything and everything.

King added that Mrs. Ruyle, art teacher, has inspired her to keep drawing the things she enjoys.

When asked if she wanted to make a career out of art, she replied, "I really want to be a tattoo artist."

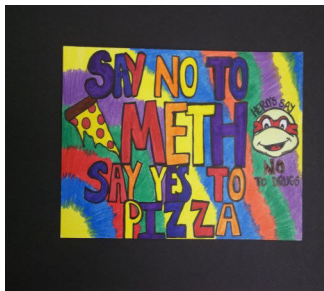
King recently placed first in the Macoupin County Meth Coalition art contest.

The theme for this year was "Heroes

Say No to Meth."

King's poster included a Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle and a slice of pizza

with the words "Say no to meth, Say yes to pizza."



She won a \$25 gift card for receiving first place.

King said, "Art has impacted her educational life a lot by inspiring her to continue to make good grades and concentrate more in class."

King said her advice for younger students would be,

"Stay creative and don't give up no matter what anyone says."

In the Halls

with Breanna & Hayley

What's your favorite book turned movie?

Josh Jorden: *James Bond*

Reagan Rinicke: *Hunger Games*

Mr. Hasquin: *Lord of the Rings*

Troy Wild: *Harry Potter*

Jimmi Naylor: *Hunger Games*

Mr. Henry: *The Princess Bride*

Briana Fowler: *Hunger Games*

Jamie Brockway: *The Great Gatsby*

Jakiob Warers: *Harry Potter*

Cheyenne Slack: *Hunger Games*

Abbie Westerman: *Twilight*

Olivia Jones: *Perks of Being a Wallflower*

Jerry Newby: *The Prince and the Pauper*

Dylan Green: *Lightening Thief*

Nicholas Ringhausen: *I am, Number 4*

Brett Schiller: *Lightening Thief*

Klaudia Wooldridge: *The Hunger Games*

Rachel Lahey: *The Hunger Games*

Ms. Gaffney: *Gone With the Wind*

Sydney Walden: *Marley and Me*

Tyler Mayhew: *Eragon*

Rachel Lahey: *The Hunger Games*

Alex Baldwin: *Twilight*

Tony Kirkendall: *Hunger Games*

Josh Dupont: *Hunger Games*

James Krankel: *Hunger Games*

Ashlee Wittman: *The Notebook*

Austin Cummings: *Shiloh*

Rachel Lahey: *The Hunger Games*

Aleah Dobbs: *The Lovely Bones*

Hannah Price: *Catching Fire*

Tanner Moore: *Harry Potter*

Mackenzie Rose: *Perks of Being a Wallflower*

Isaiah Barnett: *Lord of the Rings*

Book Review: *The Summer Prince* Appears On "Must Read" List

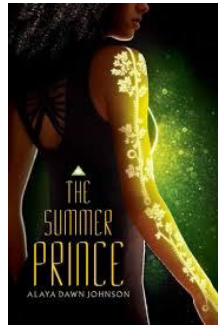
By: Casey Moore

The riveting story *The Summer Prince*, by Alaya Dawn Johnson, is a great novel for teen readers who love art and technology with a mix of politics. Set in a post-apocalyptic Brazil, in a gleaming city called Plamares-Tres (also an independent nation), three friends learn what it means to grow up, fall in love, and stand up for what they think is right.

June Costa, a headstrong, confident young artist, her best friend Gil, an aspiring dancer, and Enki, the Summer Prince, get together with a young group of very talented musicians and artists to create the most beautiful work of art the city has ever seen.

With every adult in the city against them, including the Queen herself, these kids mock the government and undermine the Queen's authority by disobeying laws and going to extreme extents to create the perfect work of art. June and Gil become more than just upstart children, they turn into significant members of society due to their relationship with the Summer Prince and they gain the support of the citizens through the various gossip feeds that dominate the social networking of the city.

Through fame and support these friends overcome obstacles and change the tides of life for so many people. They succeed, they fail and they never give up, showing a nation that it is okay to move forward. So if you are interested in reading this novel, please go to the library or visit <http://search.illinoisheartland.org> to order the book today.



In the Halls

With Hayley and Breanna

What is your favorite Thanksgiving food?

Leah Cohrs - Mashed Potatoes
Sara McCoy - Pumpkin Pie
Dakota Duvall - Stuffing
Emily Bowman - Potatoes
Mallory Novack - Ham
Marion Black - Pumpkin Bread
Jamie Brockway - Sweet Potatoes
Mackenzie Rose - Chicken
Ashley Moore - Turkey
Blake Lawson - Pumpkin Pie
JP Mueller - Stuffing
Morgan Cates - Potatoes
Tanner Moore - Turkey
Paige Wolfe - Mashed Potatoes
Evan Gettings - Ham
Sean Maronie - Mashed Potatoes

What are you most thankful for?

Tyler Mayhew - A healthy family
Jacob Rich - My parents
James Krankel - My parents
Mr. DeLong - My family
Ailee Manns - My family and friends
Alyssa Cox - Friends
Mrs. Goetten - Family and my Publications Class
Mr. Lansaw - The good health of my family
Justin Grizzle - Friends
Levi Harter - Dilly
Aaron Hand - Family
Carley Link - My mom
Casey Moore - Books
Austin O'Heron - Having family

New Teacher, New Sound: Fall Concert Impresses Audience

By: Austin O'Heron

On Tuesday, November 5, the Southwestern High school and Middle School band and chorus held their annual Fall Concert in the gym.

Some of the songs the bands played were highlights from the soundtrack *Tarzan*, "Soul Bossa Nova" from the movie *Austin Powers* and as an encore, the band played NFL on Fox.

Band director, Ms. Alex Weinberg, said, "We practice at least three weeks in advance for the concerts. This is to ensure the band has gotten the rhythm of each song."

She said in both bands there is a com-



Photo by Austin O'Heron

Ms. Weinberg directs the high school band at fall concert.

bined total of 83 students.

To prepare for a concert, several band members stay after school to help bring chairs, stands, and some instruments into the gym.

Ms. Weinberg stated, "It takes at least two hours to set up in the gym."

Once the concert is over, everything has to be put back into the band room.

The fall concert lasted exactly 45 minutes, which was the expected time.

Ms. Weinberg also commented, "I felt the concert was impressive, simply because the crowd was so appreciative."

Scholar Bowl Team Buzzes Into New Season

By: Rebecca Vogt

Varsity Scholar Bowl is doing well this season with a record of 5-2. There are a total of 10 players on the Varsity team. The Junior Varsity team has 14 players. The Varsity team looks forward to the Kick Off Tournament in Greenville.

Mr. Matt Hasquin has been coaching the team since 2003. He commented about this year's schedule, saying that the team has 18 different dates to have as many matches as they wish on these dates.

Varsity team A includes Daniel Woodman, Sarann Boker, Darby Jones (captain), Brandon Thomas, and Kaden Kessinger. Varsity team B includes Brandon Murphy, Isaiah Barnett (captain), Brianna Gillespie, Hannah Greeling, and Emily Bowman.

"Litchfield and Carrollton are fun to play and who we look forward to playing most," added Mr. Hasquin.

Emily Bowman explained that this year the team is doing something a little

different in that some players will be specializing in certain categories for the matches.

"For example, I am specializing in literature while Brandon Murphy is specializing in fine arts," said Bowman.

Sophomore Abby Mueller, who specializes in mythology, said she feels confident in the team.

"I plan to play Scholar Bowl for the rest of high school," Mueller added.

Senior Daniel Woodman said that Scholar Bowl is off to a good start this year and hopes to get back where the team was last year. Woodman specializes in sports, history and current events/politics.

"I've been playing all 4 years and I'll miss traveling with the team the most," added Woodman.



SHS Cross Country Team Completes Season

By: Breanna Fowler

The 2013 cross country team had a great season this year from the practices to sectionals. With cross country ending this season Coach Gary Bowker and a few cross country members had some things to say about the season and sectionals.

"Sectionals were great this year," said Coach Bowker. The girls for the fifth time in seven years went to sectionals. Southwestern and Bunker Hill have a co-op for cross country. Sophomore Brandon Myatt, the only Bunker Hill member, had an exceptional year making it to state and placing sixth.

Coach Bowker stated that many runners improved from the beginning of the season to the end. He explained that Sara McCoy went from her starting off time with 31:47 to 23:32, she improved with an 8 minute difference.

When asked what his favorite part of

the season was, Coach Bowker replied, "The practices. Every practice was fun and I looked forward to getting with the kids every day."

When asked the same question, junior Ailee Manns said, "Ultimate frisbee was my favorite."

The members and Coach Bowker noted their thoughts about what they will miss most now that the season is over for the year.

Senior Sondra Thrum said, "Being with everyone is what I'll miss the most. We are like a family."



Senior Sondra Thrum helped Coach Bowker with coaching duties.

Ellie Trombetta Races to the Finish



(l to r) Ellie Trombetta, Tim Smith, and Amy Smith after finishing the half marathon race.

By: Amber Freeman

On Oct. 27, junior Ellie Trombetta ran the Rock 'n' Roll half marathon in downtown St. Louis. A half marathon is 13.1 miles in distance. Trombetta has been competitively running since the summer after her freshman year. That summer she raced in the 5K Color Run in St. Louis.

When asked what motivated her to run this half marathon, Trombetta replied, "I've been running for a few years and have only done a 5K, so I wanted to do more."

In order to train for this event, Trombetta trained four days a week for five months. Trombetta trained and ran the race with Tim and Amy Smith, owners of Intentional Fitness in Brighton.

After completing the half marathon, Trombetta stated, "I felt like I was about to die, and I couldn't feel my legs, but I felt proud of myself for doing it."

After feeling the accomplishment of finishing the marathon, Trombetta said, "I'm proud for doing it, and I would like to run a full marathon in the near future, but I'm not sure if I could do it."

SHS Girls' Basketball Teams Starts Off With Winning Record

By: Austin O'Heron

Southwestern High school girls' basketball started off the season by beating North Green by 40 points, 72-32. The team was excited to win their first home game. The Lady Birds had another big win, 83-29, against Greenfield.

Southwestern placed first in their own Thanksgiving tournament. Sophomore Madison Greeling was named MVP while sophomore Kelsey Rhoades was selected to the All-Tournament team.

The varsity team had a successful run last year and hope to top their record of 23-5.

The team's goal this year is to "try to pick up where we left off from last year, and play quality basketball," stated Mr. Steve Wooley, girls' basketball coach.



Photo by O'Heron Photography

Girls basketball team make more memories as they pose for a new team photo. (back l to r) Kristin Cox, Jenna Moore, Kelsey Rhoades, Malea Bailey, Hanna Moore, Karlie Green, Payton Heyen, Shelby Salzman, and Samantha Burns. (front to r) Mackenzie Wolff, Ashlyn Ringhausen, Erin Laubscher, Randi Hopkins, Madison Greeling, Emily Wolff, and Mallory Novak.

He said that their strongest skills as a team are ball handling, shooting, and working together.

He added, "One thing the team could get better at is their post play," stated Wooley.

Coach Wooley is starting his 16th year as the head girl's coach. He has accumulated a 370-100 record.

Seniors Speak:



What team do you look forward to playing this season?

SENIOR HANNAH MOORE STATED, "THE TEAM WE LOOK FORWARD TO PLAYING THIS YEAR IS 'CARLINVILLE, BECAUSE THEY ARE ALWAYS COMPETITIVE.'"

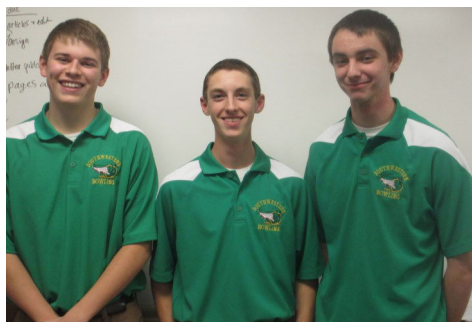


SENIOR RANDI HOPKINS SAID, "THEY DON'T LOOK FORWARD TO PLAYING 'PANA, BECAUSE THEY ARE ALL GOOD ATHLETES.'"

Bowling Team Earns Strike

By: Emily Bowman

The bowling team is striking more pins as they begin the new year. The boys' varsity team of 12 members, consisting of: Leighton Grothaus, Brian Heinemin, Adam Kasten, Adam Keene, Shawn Rutledge, Tyler Mayhew, Alex Watts, Scott Kasting, Tanner Mayhew, Jacob Bowman, and Joey Gaither had just won the Alton Quad Invitational tournament, with a pin count of 2,933. Patty Heinemin, Elaine Grothaus, and Brian Kasting, coaches of the Southwestern Bowling team, held tryouts on Oct. 28th and 29th, and made an announcement of team members on Oct. 30th.



(l to r) Adam Kasten, Leighton Grothaus, Shawn Rutledge are senior leaders on this year's bowling team.

"It's been fun and exciting to watch this group of athletes," Coach Heinemin stated when asked about the sea-



son so far. "Our Southwestern Bowling team was re-established after being cut for several years, and now these athletes are bowling strong."

Along with winning the Alton tournament, the boys' team also won against Civic Memorial on Nov. 20th, with a score of 21-19. "Our entire team is poised for greatness this year!" Coach Heinemin stated excitedly when asked about how the team shall perform this year.

The girls' team shall have their first match on December 4th, and are still welcoming members into the team to participate.

Sports Center

SHS Boys Basketball Shoot for a Winning Season

By: Ricci Flannery

The 2013-2014 basketball season is underway with Jason Darr returning as head coach. He is assisted by Rodney Bailey, Dan Bennett, and Dave Robinson. The season started with Thanksgiving Tournament games in Lebanon, on Fri., Nov. 29. The Birds lost their first three games in the tournament.

Senior Brendan Schiller explained who that the Birds face tough competition in Lebanon. "Madison College Prep because they are the defending Missouri champs," he said

Senior Ethan Gallaher agreed with Schiller, "They are an insane team."

Schiller discussed what makes a team successful, "Smart decisions on and off the court."

Gallaher added ideas about how to have



(l to r) Ethan Gallaher, Braden Whipps, and Jacob Rich show off their new shooting shirts.

a winning season, "Work hard, develop and perfect skills during off season. Show up to every practice and form team chemistry."

The Birds played the Carrollton Hawks in their home opener and came up short, 64-65. The team takes on Carlinville at home on Dec. 13.

Cheerleaders Prepare for Basketball Games and ICCA Competitions

By: Rachel Meisner

The cheerleaders are working hard preparing for basketball season and competitions which are both coming up quick.

The first basketball game the girls will be cheering at is the first home game against Carrollton on Tuesday, Dec. 3. The first competition the girls will compete in is on Sunday, Dec. 15, in Pinckneyville. And the squad will travel to Bethalto Civic Memorial High School on Sunday, Dec. 22. Both competitions are associated with the ICCA (Illinois Cheerleading Coaches Association) in which the squad placed 3rd in state last year.

There are thirteen girls on the squad this year. Only twelve girls are allowed to take the mat at competition and there will be one alternate.

When asked Coach Amanda Madson what her goals for the upcoming competition season she stated, "My goal is to work together and to qualify for state."

She also stated that the girls are busy working very hard learning new cheers for basketball season, and trying to learn and perfect their competition routine.

Taylor Bozarth, freshman, said that she is



(l to r) Taylor Bozarth and Maddie Pilkington look forward to competition.

very nervous and excited that she is a freshman and this is her first year ever experiencing something like this.

"I've started to perfect my tuck, and I've made a lot of new friends!" added Bozarth.

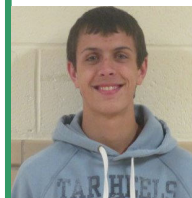
Maddie Pilkington, senior, said that she is also very nervous because she has never competed with the squad before because she has always been hurt. But she is pumped to show off the new uniforms and what the squad is working on!

If the cheerleaders qualify for state they will travel to Springfield on January 4th and 5th.

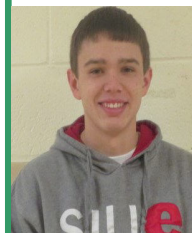
Seniors Speak

What team are you most excited to play? Why?

By: Ricci Flannery



Brendan Schiller:
"Roxana because they are one of the best teams."



Ethan Gallaher:
"Roxana because we beat them and now they are a rivalry team."



Josh Jordan:
"Carrollton because they are one of our rival teams."



Daniel Woodman:
"Carrollton because they are a really good team."

FFA Travels to Louisville for National Convention

By: Rachel Meisner

On October 30, sixteen FFA members, two chaperones, and FFA advisor Mr. Tim Reed traveled to Louisville, Kentucky, for the 86th National FFA Convention and Expo.

While at the convention, the members attended sessions where they watched keynote speakers and FFA members from across the nation receive awards, and they listened to the FFA national band and chorus. The members also had the opportunity to meet other FFA mem-

– really wished he was a national officer,” stated Tim Reed. He then continued to say that he was very proud of Meisner for everything he has accomplished.

Out of four keynote speakers, one stood out in particular to the members was Mr. Josh Sundquist. Sundquist was told that at the age of nine he had a 50% chance of survival after the doctors had found cancer in his body. Multiple chemotherapy treatments and the amputation of his leg saved

“I was excited that Jacob made finals – really wished he was a national officer.” – Mr. Tim Reed, FFA Advisor

bers and explore the Expo which included displays for many colleges and businesses.

Southwestern also competed in the state display competition in the Hall of States. Along with watching Southwestern alumni Jacob Meisner run for a national office.

“I was excited that Jacob made finals

his life. Sundquist didn’t let the amputation of his leg deter him from doing anything. He later competed for the U.S. Paralympic Ski Team. Sundquist’s humor and determination inspired the audience.

Chapter president, Jon Loy, commented, “It was a great opportunity for our chapter to grow. We all had a good time getting to know each other,



L-R: Chapter president Jon Loy and FFA member Leighton Grothaus work at the chapter display in the Hall of States.

and ignite our passion for agriculture!”

Leighton Grothaus also mentioned that the most exciting thing he did while at the convention and Expo was competing in the Hall Of States (display competition) and watching Jacob run for an office.

SHS Jazz Band Performs for Retired Teachers

By: Brittany Means

On Wed., Oct. 30, the jazz band traveled to Lake Williamson Christian Center in Carlinville, Illinois, to perform for the Retired Teachers Association, also known as the RTA.

The RTA asked the jazz band to perform because a former teacher, Caroline Kelly, knew how good the group plays.

A typical jazz band includes saxophones, trumpets, trombones, bass and electric guitars, keyboard, percussion, and typically includes a vocalist. The Southwestern High School jazz band adds in a variety of different instruments. The high school jazz band has the typical jazz instruments, minus the vocals, but adds flutes and tubas.

A variety of songs that were performed including “Theme Song from Family Guy,” “Green Onions,” “Sing



Jazz band members perform for the Retired Teachers Association.

Sing Sing,” “St. Louis Blues,” “Bird Land,” “Eli’s Coming,” and many others.

Ms. Alex Weinberg, band director, stated, “This trip gave the students a chance to perform outside of the school

community.”

Ms. Weinberg also commented that it was a chance to provide quality musical entertainment for a worthy cause.

“The retired teachers absolutely enjoyed the jazz performance! They had many compliments and the members received a standing ovation at the end of the performance,” stated Ms. Weinberg.

Jazz band is a club that meets before school on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Eighteen students are in the band this year including two middle school students.



Astronomy Club Seeing Stars



By: Leah Cohrs

Astronomy held their first meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 13, at 7 p.m. Mr. Chris Redfern, Biology/Astronomy teacher and club sponsor, organized the event.

The students met in the middle school parking lot for about an hour.

Redfern explained what he hoped the students would see at the meeting.

He commented, "It all depends on the night, but usually we will see the moon, planets, constellations and star clusters."

Mr. Redfern said he enjoys seeing the moon, because of the great detail when viewed through a telescope. He also stated that students attending the

next meeting should wear warm clothes because of the cold temperatures and they are allowed to bring their own telescope from home.

The next astronomy club meeting will be held on December 11, at 6 p.m. in the middle school parking lot.

Sophomore Juliet Wooldridge commented, "We saw the man on the moon. We also tried to see Venus, but it was clear enough."

Wooldridge said she is excited about next month's meeting and will definitely be going.

Mr. Redfern quoted, "You might be freezing, but at least you get to see some stars."

"Pinked Out" at Southwestern

Southwestern students showed their support for Breast Cancer Awareness Month by wearing pink on Friday, Oct. 25th.



(L to R) Keely Egelhoff, Kody Golike, Grace Starrett and Evan Gettings show their support for Breast Cancer Awareness month.



(L to R) Samantha French, Evan Lowis, Mackenzie Wolff, and Shyanna Davis are "pinked out."

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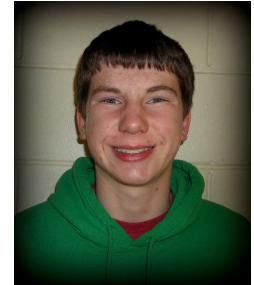
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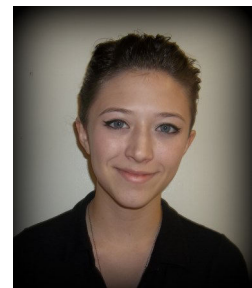
Southwestern's Oct. Students of the Month



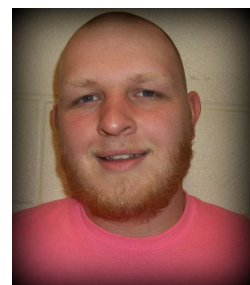
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